

March 19, 2010

Dear Congressman Perriello:

On behalf of Memorial Hospital of Martinsville and Henry County and the (860) people we employ in your district, I strongly urge you to support the comprehensive health reform legislation currently before the House.

The status quo is unacceptable, and it is critically important for our community, and my hospital, that Congress provide health security for every American as soon as possible. The legislation before you would provide essential coverage to tens of millions of currently uninsured and underinsured Americans. It would also reform the health care system in a way that would improve outcomes and reduce costs.

I understand that this legislation is not perfect, but I believe that this is the last opportunity to make a real, positive difference in our health care delivery system. Failure to act now will only result in the uninsured crisis spiraling out of control. As you know, this problem of the uninsured is not one of mere numbers on a page. These are real people we see every day in our hospital who want health coverage, but simply do not have access or cannot afford it.

Americans need to have the peace of mind that comes with having health coverage – that is, the ability for consumers to afford the care they need, when they need it. This legislation is critical to us and the patients we serve, and we are counting on your leadership to get this package enacted into law.

Please do not let this opportunity pass us by. It will make a difference to so many people by setting our health care system on a more secure path. I respectfully urge you to vote in support of the health reform bill. I would be delighted to discuss this with you at your convenience. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,



Joseph Roach
Chief Executive Officer